DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 321 223 CG 022 674

AUTHOR Gemmer, Thomas C.
TITLE Every Child Is a V.I.P.: A Schoolwide Program to Build Self- Esteem.
PUB DATE 11 Nov 89
NOTE 11p.; Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Florida Association for Counseling and Development (40th, Kissimmee, FL, November 16-18, 1989).
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Elementary Education; *Elementary School Students; Parent School Relationship; Positive Reinforcement; *School Counseling; School Counselors; *Self Esteem; Student Attitudes

ABSTRACT

Many forces work to undermine the self-esteem and attitude toward school of an elementary school student. A program to reverse this trend, the V.I.P. (Very Important Person) Program, was undertaken in a Florida elementary school. For the counselor this program provides contact with every student, positive communications with parents, and a way to get teachers to focus on each student's good qualities. For the student this program provides some unconditional recognition from teachers and peers, a chance to be in the spotlight for non-academic reasons, and an opportunity to feel good about being in school. Each week all teachers choose a new V.I.P. from their class. The teachers fill out a Teacher Input Form about their student. The counselor meets with all chosen V.I.P.s, interviews them, takes their picture, has them draw a picture of their choice, and gives them a certificate of congratulations with a letter to their parents. Collected materials are displayed on the V.I.P. wall and V.I.P. students receive pins to wear as well as privileges determined by their teachers. It is hoped that in this way students get to know that everyone is a Very Important Person and that the positive qualities of each student deserve recognition. (Forms used in the program are included.) (ABL)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED321223

Every Child is a V.I.P.

A Schoolwide Program to Build Self-Esteem

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Thomas C. Gemmer

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

022674

Tommie Barfield Elementary School
Tom Gemmer, Counselor
101 Kirkwood St.
Marco Island, FL 33937

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Every Child is a V.I.P.

The V.I.P. Program

Many forces work to undermine the self-esteem and attitude toward school of an elementary school student. At Tommie Barfield Elementary School, in Collier County, we have taken one step to reverse that trend through the "V.I.P. Program". For the counselor this program provides contact with every student, positive communications with parents, and a way to get teachers to focus on each student's good qualities. For the student this program provides some unconditional recognition from teachers and peers, a chance to be in the spotlight for non-academic reasons, and an opportunity to feel good about being in school. It is a recognition program based on the belief that each of us is special and important, just for being who we are.

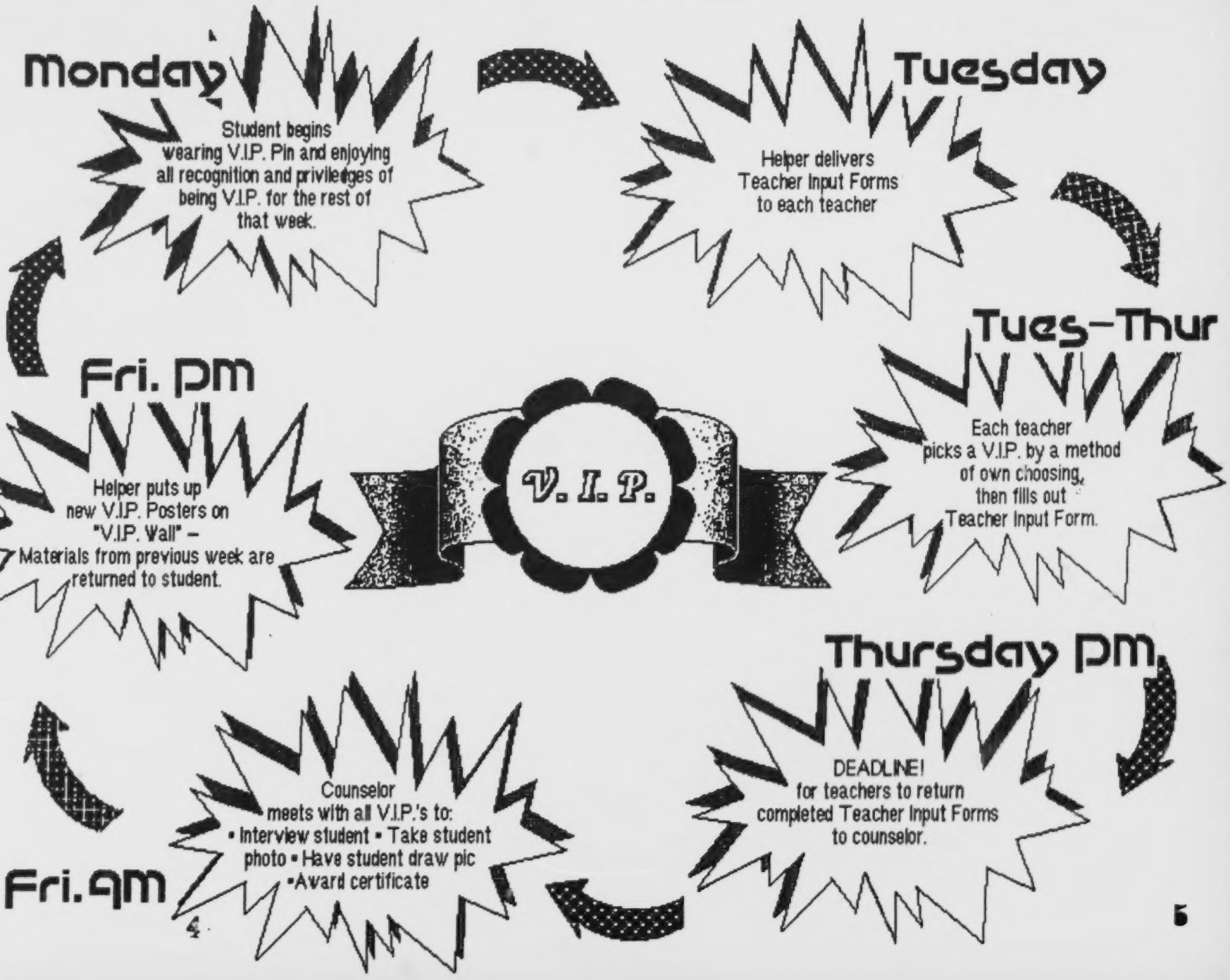
Each week all classroom teachers choose a new V.I.P. from their class. We allow teachers to decide how to choose a student, with the only stipulation being that every student has to have a turn, sometime during the year. Some methods of choosing include random selection by teacher or students by drawing out of a cup or jar, following a roster alphabetically, or choosing a student who needs a "boost".

After making their choice, teachers fill out a Teacher Input Form about that student. (See flow chart and samples included.) This encourages them to think positively about each of their students. On Friday of each week, I meet with all chosen V.I.P.'s to do several things. I "interview" each student, (see samples of V.I.P. News, each from different school years), take their picture with an Instant Camera, have them draw a picture of their choice, and give them a certificate of congratulations, which has a letter to their parents, to take home (see sample included). If your school is large, these tasks could be done by you and a helper, such as an aide, principal, or even older students. I like the student contact, so I devote the time to do it myself.

Once I have met with all V.I.P.'s, I utilize students helpers to display the collected materials on our "V.I.P. wall". We put up the V.I.P. News, their drawing and the photograph for each V.I.P. We have housed this display in various places including the cafeteria, and different hallways. Any spot that has good visibility and lots of student traffic can be utilized. Teachers are encouraged to take their classes by the display at some time during each week. We have recently begun publishing all V.I.P. names in the local newspaper each week as well.

On Monday of the week that they are V.I.P., each chosen student gets a pin to wear, designating them as a V.I.P.. Teachers keep these pins, and pass them on to each new V.I.P.. During their week as V.I.P., students get a variety of privileges, determined by their teachers. These might include being line leader or teacher's helper, or having a special seat in class, or any other bonus a creative mind can come up with. Other faculty can also recognize V.I.P.'s as they see them during the week. At the end of their week each student's "V.I.P. Wall" display is returned to them.

In this way we hope to let students know that everyone is a Very Important Person, to give them a week in the spotlight with the focus on their positive qualities, and to remind parents and ourselves that every student has strengths and deserves to be recognized for them.


Monday
Student begins wearing V.I.P. Pin and enjoying all recognition and privileges of being V.I.P. for the rest of that week.
Tuesday
Helper delivers Teacher Input Forms to each teacher
Tues–Thur
Each teacher picks a V.I.P. by a method of own choosing, then fills out Teacher Input Form.
Thursday PM
DEADLINE! for teachers to return completed Teacher Input Forms to counselor.
Fri. AM
Counselor meets with all V.I.P.'s to: • Interview student • Take student photo • Have student draw pic • Award certificate
Fri. PM
Helper puts up new V.I.P. Posters on "V.I.P. Wall" – Materials from previous week are returned to student.
V. I. P.

V.I.P. TEACHER INPUT

REMEMBER! EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT! THINK STRENGTHS!

Due by Thur. P.M. Thanks!

STUDENT NAME:_____

TEACHER NAME:_____

V.I.P. FOR THE WEEK OF:_____

1. THINGS YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR V.I.P.:

2. THINGS OTHER STUDENTS LIKE ABOUT YOUR V.I.P.:

3. THINGS YOUR V.I.P. DOES TO MAKE YOUR CLASS BETTER:

V.I.P. TEACHER INPUT

Teacher: Date:

Remember! There's good in everyone!

My V.I.P. for this week is:

Here are three positive thoughts about this V.I.P. (descriptive words, phrases, strengths, or abilities):

1.

2.

3.

DUE BY THUR. PM!

5

V.I.P. NEWS

My name is:

The people in my family are:

HERE ARE SOME FACTS ABOUT ME...

My favorite game:

My favorite food:

The thing I do best:

My favorite thing to do at home:

The best thing that ever happened to me:

My favorite TV show:

What I want to be when I'm older:

What I like best about myself:

V.I.P. NEWS

My name is:

My age is:

My teacher's name is:

My favorite subject is:

What I like best about school:

The hardest part of school is:

What my teacher and classmates say:

Things I do to make my class better:

V.I.P. NEWS!

My name is

I live with

Two of the things I do best are

Two things I like to do with friends are

Two things I like to do on my own are

One of the things I like best about myself is

I think when I'm older I'd like to

My teacher says that I

FOR BEING A V.I.P.

has been given this award because this student is a Very Important Person!!

T.B.E. 1989-1990

collier county public schools

Dear Parent,

This certificate is your child's award for being chosen as V.I.P. (Very Important Person) for his/her class for the next week.

This recognition is part of a program designed to let all of our students know that they are special, just for being who they are. Each of us has many positive qualities that deserve attention, and during this week, your child's positive qualities will be in the spotlight on the "V.I.P. Wall" at school so others can take note. Each V.I.P. will also wear a special pin at school so that all of us will recognize them during their week. Please feel free to come by if you would like to see your child's V.I.P. display.

We hope all of our students at Tommie Barfield School will feel special and important here. We appreciate your help in reaching this goal.

Sincerely,

Carol Gossard

Tom Gemmer

Carol Gossard, Principal

Tom Gemmer, Counselor

THE COLLIER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM IS AN EQUAL ACCESS/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT